

Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel

1865 - 1956



Renowned Horticulturist and
Landscape Architect



Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel

(Courtesy: Savithri Preetha Nair)

Born at Lohmen, near Dresden on 18 Dec 1865, Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel was educated at Wilsdruff and Dresden, and completed an apprenticeship at the Royal gardens at Pillnitz, where he specialized in landscape and ornamental gardening under G. A. Wentzel (1820-1899) from 30th March 1880 to 1st April 1884. Immediately after, he joined the Agricultural and Fruit Department of the Schwerin Royal Garden, in the capital of Mecklenburg, for a year. Here, his work was entirely devoted to cultivating fruits and vegetables. In 1885, Krumbiegel entered the service of a private garden at Hamburg, where in addition to landscape gardening, he specialized in the raising of rare plants. This tenure ended on 30 Sept 1887. He was immediately offered a job on the staff of the Imperial Botanic Garden in Berlin, but he did not accept the offer, as he was keen on moving to England and France and most of all passing the horticultural course at Kew. To improve his English, he first worked at Hyde Park, London, and in 1888 joined Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as a student gardener.

Having spent five years at Kew, Krumbiegel was no more interested in pursuing his ambition to study in France or returning for good to Germany. Being hopeful of an appointment in the colonies, he attended the extension lectures at the South Kensington University (today's Imperial College of the University of London), winning prizes and certificates in several subjects, including geometry and perspective drawing. About the same time, the authorities at Kew were approached by the Gaekwad of Baroda for recommending "an experienced and capable officer for the State Gardens at Baroda". Krumbiegel's vast horticultural knowledge and experience made him the ideal person for the job.



From Kew to Baroda (1893-1907)

Baroda, under the reign of its progressive ruler Maharaja Sayaji Rao-III, the Gaekwad of Baroda (1863-1939) was considered a model Indian state, spending large sums of money to attract the best men in the fields of administration, education, law, science, medicine, engineering, agriculture, horticulture, art and architecture.

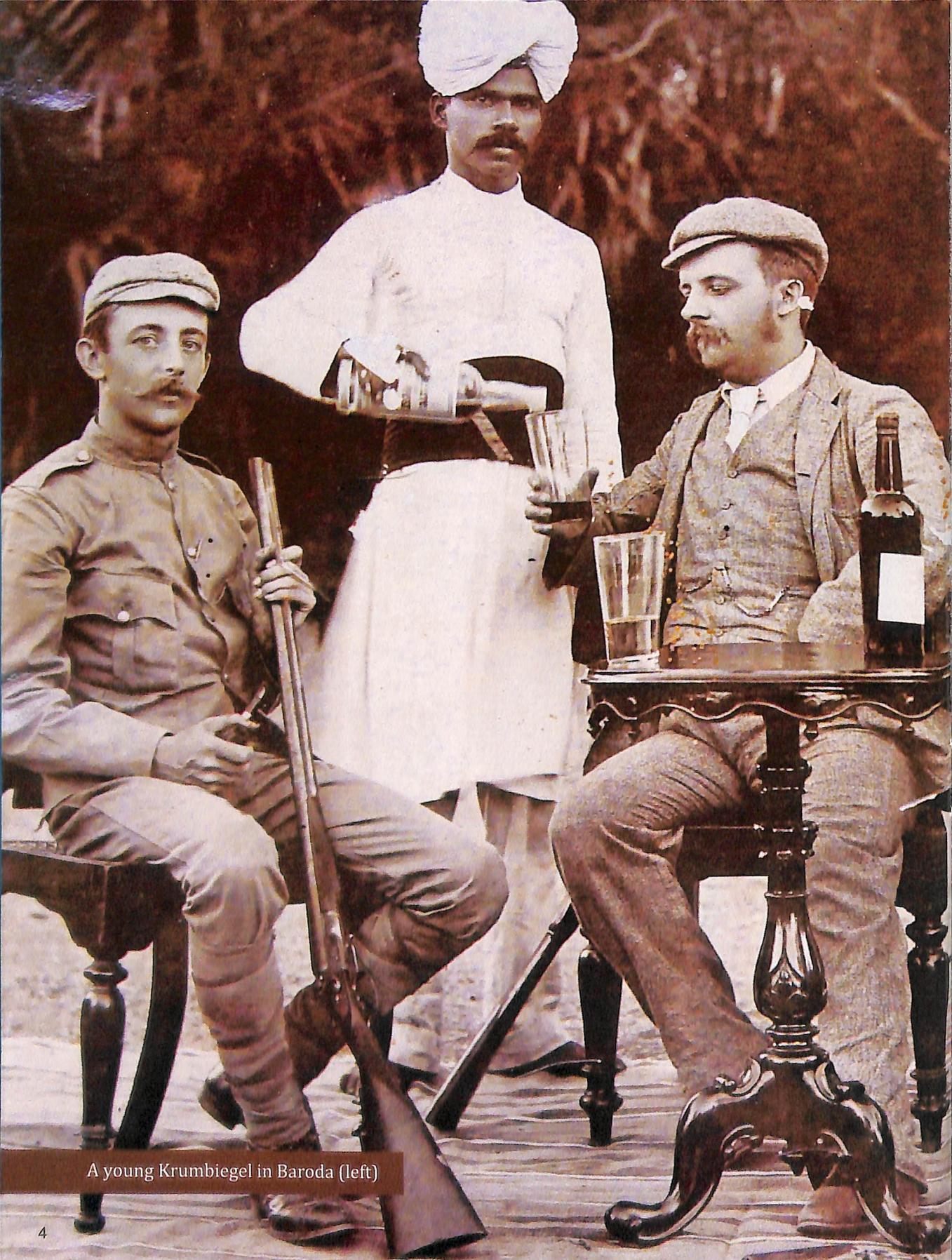
In Baroda, Krumbiegel was faced with the enormous task of designing and laying out pleasure grounds, trial grounds, nurseries and parks covering a vast area of more than hundred acres. He made elaborate improvements, which won him fame. His interest was not confined to gardening alone. It sought an outlet in architecture and town planning. fountains, bridges and pavilions were conjured up in elegant taste to complete delightful landscape pictures. His knowledge of the geography of plant life, of the economic and meterological value of plants, of the colour scheme in gardening and his practical genius in evolving picturesque effects, soon transformed the personal properties of the Maharaja's properties in Bombay and Ootacamund (Ooty). The improvement he made to the Woodstock Estate at the latter place own the overwhelming admiration of all. Particularly it came to the notice of the Maharaja of Mysore Nalwadi

Krishnaraja Wodeyar, who appointed him as Superintendent of Mysore, as soon as John Cameron retired from service. He was involved with gardening work in Ahmedabad and at the Delhi camp on the occasion of the Durbar of 1903. Krumbiegel would do similar work for the Delhi Durbar of 1911, while in the service of the Maharaja of Mysore, to which most provincial governments sent their own Garden superintendents to lay out their respective camps.

Krumbiegel was also responsible for improving the zoological collection in the Baroda State and for this purpose was in correspondence with Albert Sherbourne Le Souef, the Secretary of the Taronga Zoo in Mosman, Sydney. The Baroda State Gardens also exchanged animals with the Trivandrum & Indore zoos during Krumbiegel's tenure.



Laxmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara (Baroda).
Final stages of its construction were supervised by Krumbiegel



A young Krumbiegel in Baroda (left)



Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar

In the service of the Mysore State (1908 – 1932)

In 1907, Krumbiegel informed William Watson, Curator of the Kew Gardens that he was about to leave Baroda (he had recommended the Kew gardener B. F. Cavanagh to his post) and was negotiating with John Cameron to succeed him as Superintendent of the Lalbagh Gardens, Bangalore. As Krumbiegel was already forty-one (and father to two girls, aged nine and ten), particular care was taken by the Mysore State to ensure his appointment was not accepted 'with a view solely to easy retirement'. Taking this into consideration, the Maharaja of Mysore, Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV (1884 – 1940) wanted the term of engagement fixed for five years, 'renewable as long as Mr. Krumbiegel continues to render satisfactory services'. The conditions of his engagement approved by the Maharaja included:

1. Service to be five years in the first instance, subject to renewal at the end of that term, if his service is satisfactory.
2. Pay to commence at Rs. 600, rising by annual increments of Rs.25 to a maximum of Rs. 1,000; should his services be retained till that amount is earned.
3. A programme of work to be drawn up on his joining in consultation with the Revenue Commission and Dr. A. Lehmann with

reference to both horticultural and agricultural experiment work; the success attained in working out the programme being considered when the question of renewal comes up.

In the 1850's, the first Conservator of Forests in Southern India and Professor of Botany, Dr. Huges Cleghorn ^h was in charge of Lalbagh and it was during his tenure that it gained the status of botanical garden. In 1874, John Cameron was appointed as Superintendent, and by this time the gardens had been extended to cover an area of over hundred acres. Superintendency of the Lalbagh Gardens and of the Government Museum, Bangalore, were posts concurrently held as a general law ever since Cameron's appointment. Accordingly in 1908, Krumbiegel was appointed Superintendent of the 'Government Gardens and Museum, Bangalore.' That year saw an equestrian statue of the Maharaja transferred from the Curzon Park in Mysore to Lalbagh and the construction of Basavanagudi Gate constructed. In 1919, the poet Rabindranath Tagore was entertained at the Gardens by the students of Bangalore. During the same year, an elaborate pipe system for watering the gardens was laid out, all the open drains closed and a reservoir and pump house installed.



Krumbiegel with his family members at his residential garden in Lalbagh

Establishment of Orchards and Horticulture Trade

Krumbiegel was a pioneer in the cheap importation of fruit trees from Australia. Despite his hectic professional life, he managed to complete a Fruit Survey Report, based on his visits to several gardens in the State. With the intention of encouraging fruit culture in the State, the central fruit nursery at Lalbagh supplied on sale and exchange, seeds, fruits, flowers and plants. Between five and ten thousand plants per year were regularly imported and supplied to fruit growers from the late 1920s. Over two hundred new orchards sprang up in the Mysore State during Krumbiegel's tenure and the export trade of Mysore in flowers, fruits and vegetables grew by leaps and bounds. Bangalore was especially famous for its mangoes, grapes and the Coorg oranges. He effectively demonstrated the process of fruit preservation using glass containers. Krumbiegel also carried out experiments in "sun-drying" of vegetables in association with Albert Howard of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute. Amongst the

European vegetables cultivated in Mysore during this period were several varieties of apple, strawberries, potatoes, garden peas and cauliflowers. During the three years as officiating Director of Agriculture, Krumbiegel re-organized the Veterinary Department and opened the Serum Institute for the production of virus and serum required for fighting Rinderpest prevalent among cattle.

Exchange of Seeds and Plants

Seeds and plants were regularly exchanged between the Garden and botanical establishments across the world. These included the gardens at Kew, Dublin Edinburgh, Glasgow, Berlin, Montreal, Singapore, Ceylon, Ooty (Ootacamund), Calcutta, Sahanapur, the Agri-Horticultural Society of India and Madras. The practice was continued by Krumbiegel. In 1919, he sent in a 'ventilated dealwood case' seeds and specimens of the Royal Pinciana (Gulmohar), Cassia fistula, Cassia florida, Caesalpinia coriaria (Divi Divi), Spathodea campanulata, Bauhinia alba, Bauhinia purpurea, Stereospermum chelonoides, Durana ellisia, Butea frondosa (Flame of the forest),

Lagerstroemia flosreginae (Pride of India), Pithecellobium saman (Rain tree), Bignonia megapotamica, Kleinhovia hospital and the Adenanthera pavonina (Coral-wood tree). Under Krumbiegel's superintendence, seeds and plants were also periodically despatched to the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States. As early as 1910, just two years after he had been appointed Superintendent, Krumbiegel exported several species of Mangifera indica (mango), including the Badami, Malgoa, Raspuri, Rumani and the Sundersha varieties. In 1924, he sent plants of the Ficus mysorensis Heyne.

Plant Collection and Botanical Science

The first job Kurmbiegel assigned for himself when he took over as Superintendent of the Lalbagh was to name and label and where possible, replant and add to the fine collection of plants and rare specimen trees, which had been planted according to the natural orders and with regard to geographical distribution. Amongst the rare trees were large Araucarias and other Australian conifers, besides a number of Eucalyptus, Ficus, moreton Bay Fig and Chestnut. He took special effort to send scientists, specimens – rare and unknown, for scientific study, whenever he came across them. In 1902, he sent mycologist C. G. Lloyd based on Cincinnati, an “unknown” dried phalloid (a kind of fetid and fleshy fungi) collected from North Bengal. His passion for plants and admiration for the Kew botanist Joseph Dalton Hooker led him to undertake a serious study of Hooker's Himalayan Journals, followed by a tour to Darjeeling, retracing the latter's footsteps and collecting several rare plants from the region.

Zoological Collection

The Lalbagh Gardens maintained a menagerie on its grounds from its very early days. Like in

Baroda, Krumbiegel spared no effort in improving its zoological collection. In 1918, even when he was in Quetta on a different mission, he took care to purchase from the animal dealer Lammergeyer several animals for the Mysore and Lalabagh Zoos.

Urban Aesthetics

Krumbiegel commanded the “A” Company of the Bangalore Rifle Volunteers even before the Second World War. However, despite this and the intensive negotiations by the Mysore state, Krumbiegel and the German architects O. Koenigsberger and U. Exener were interned for sixteen months as enemy subjects. It was during this period of internment that Krumbiegel and his fellow Germans worked out important building designs for the Mysore State. In her recent study of modern architecture in the Mysore State and the contributions of Koenigsberger, historian Vandana Baweja observes that the ‘Mysore Government deployed beauty as a nation building strategy in the sphere of architecture to construct Mysorean identity by monitoring architectural taste’. As Dewan, Mirza Ismail wielded great



Krumbiegel on horseback

power and was a tremendous influence on the Maharaja. It was his idea that German architects be employed in the Public Works Department (PWD) of the State. Ismail's support for Krumbiegel was crucial not only in suppressing the displeasure on the part of some of the employees of the PWD, who objected to his 'foreign-ness' and his lack of formal training in civil engineering but also for the latter's appointment as Consulting Architect to the State. Later, Krumbiegel also held the position of Chief Archtiect. Ismail availed Krumbiegel's services as an architectural consultant in designing buildings such as the Municipal Offices at no extra fee to him besides the remuneration by the horticulture department.

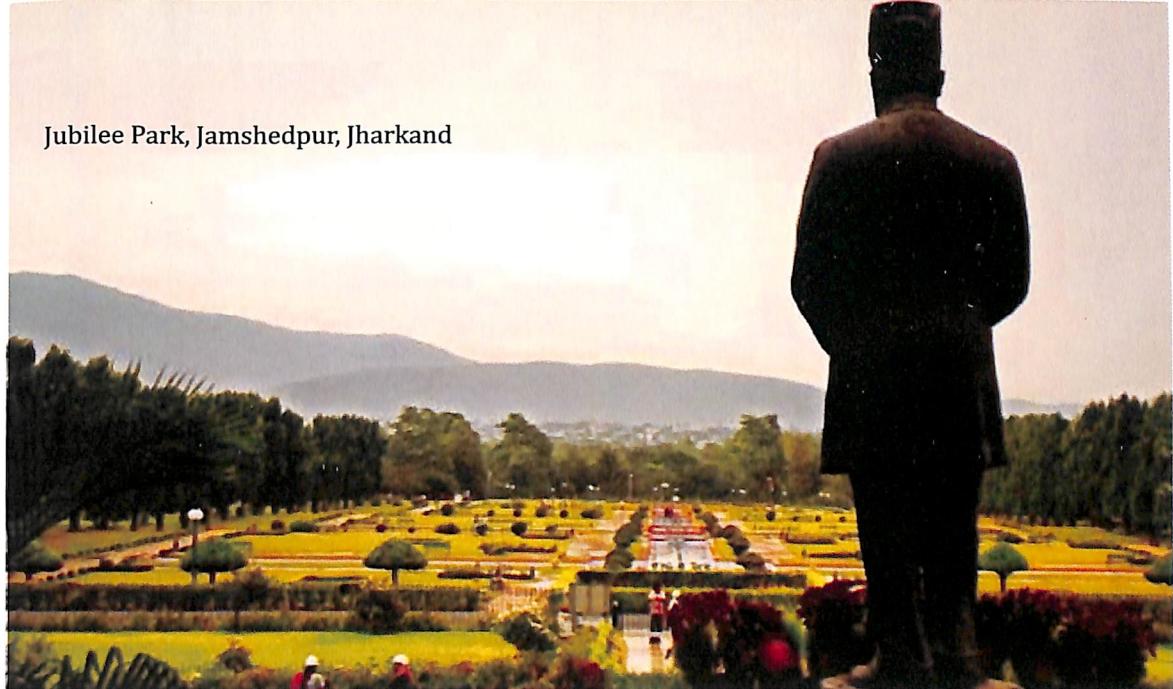
Krumbiegel designed and re-laid several parks and gardens throughout the state. He was particularly talented in creating harmonious and visually pleasing effects by judicious planting of ornamental trees, which the British experimental biologist Lancelot Hogben called bioaesthetic planning; a style of planting based on ecological concerns. The bioaesthetic planner was conceived by a master artist who painted the canvas of his city and side-walks of the roads in vibrant hues with the use of flowering trees such as the blue jacarandas, yellow Amaltas, orange-scarlet Gulmohurs,

scarlet Colvilleas, red Erythrinias, and pink Lagerstroemias. Bangalore, the garden, city, with its beautiful avenues owes its charm in no small measure to Krumbiegel, a bioaesthetic planner. "Whatever he touched he adorned." The place gardens 'gained fresh grace and splendour'; the Guest Mansions at Mysore and the Terrace Garden at Krishnaraja Sagar were all designed and beautifully developed by Krumbiegel.

When the Indian Institute of Science was established in 1909 in the north of Bangalroe, its extensive grounds were but scrubland, wild and overrun by bushes. The beauty of the present day campus with its avenues of *Delonix regia*, *Samanea sanman*, *Swietenia mahogany*, *Cassia* and *Tabebuia* and its biodiversity owes itself to the ordered and creative planting design by Krumbeigel and his contemporary, the American-trained horticulturist B.S. Nirody, with the unflinching support of Sir C. V. Raman, the director of the institute. Krumbiegel and Nirody were both fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society and developed a creative and successful partnership. In 1918, Krumbeigel was in Quetta at the request of the General Warpshire, with the permission of the Government of India, to design the layout of the Residency there. Throughout his career,



Jubilee Park, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand



Krumbiegel found himself very busy planning and designing landscape gardens for public and private clients. Public institutions like the Annamalai University and private clients like Sir Dorabji Tata sought his valuable advice in designing their gardens.

Krumbiegel's most important clients however were the Maharajas of princely states who were keen on having Krumbiegel design beautiful gardens befitting the grand Indo-Saracenic palaces they had built for themselves at the turn of the twentieth century. Krumbiegel was hired by the Kapurthala and Cooch Behar States for planning and inspecting their gardens, while in service of the Baroda State. In 1910, when the Maharaja of Alwar visited Mysore, he had expressed a desire to have Krumbiegel inspect the royal gardens and suggest improvements. Three years later, the Hyderabad State approached the Mysore Resident, request an expert who could advise on how to improve the menagerie and public gardens.

Krumbiegel was asked to take up the assignment. Accordingly, in 1913, Krumbiegel was permitted to spend ten days at Alwar and Hyderabad. On his return to Bangalore, Krumbiegel submitted a detailed report on his

tour. He had left for Alwar on the 9th August 1913 but utilized a one day break in between to select plants in Poona and Bombay. At Bombay, he did not fail to purchase some birds from the Crawford Market for the Lalbagh Zoo.

After retirement

Even after retirement from Lalbagh in 1932, Krumbiegel's life continued to be a busy one. His expertise was much in demand; that same year for instance, the Travancore State approached him for advice on introducing horticultural improvements to its several gardens, including the public gardens in the heart of the city of Trivandrum. Together with B. S. Nirody, Krumbiegel designed the Jubilee Park in the heart of the Jamshedpur, at the invitation of Sir Dorabji Tata. In 1937, a landscaping and garden project was initiated under the guidance of Sydeny Percy Lancaster, Secretary of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India around the scenic Bagkudar Lake near the Court Buildings in Jamshedpur. However, with the Company's Golden Jubilee in mind, the incomplete project was resumed in 1955 and its design commissioned to Krumbiegel and Nirody. The focal point of the Jubilee Park, the beautiful Moghul Garden was inspired by the Brindavan



Krumbiegel (sitting second from right) served as the Treasurer of the Mythic Society of Bangalore - 1915

Gardens in Mysore, designed by Krumbiegel with the support of the able Dewan Mirz Ismail.

A Connoisseur of the Arts

Krumbiegel, as Superintendent of the Government Museum in Bangalore became involved with the preservation of ancient monuments in the Mysore State. Drawing inspiration from the work of the Director of the Department of Archaeology in Mysore, B. Lewis Rice, he classified the monuments in the Mysore State and drafted rules and regulations for their maintenance. Krumbiegel was associated with the Faculty of Arts of the Bangalore University; he worked as a Visiting Professor of Architecture, Town Planning and Civic Design at Bangalore's College of Engineering.

Further, as one of the seventeen founders of the Mythic Society in Bangalore, he worked as its Treasurer contributing significantly to the stabilization of its finances. Established in 1909, the Mythic Society like the Asiatic Society aimed to bring together scholars, but European and Indian, interested in the study of Indian history, ethnology and culture. Krumbiegel was considered a man of fine taste, passionate about art, music and literature. He was also a keen philatelist and in keeping with his horticultural profession, was skilful in operating agricultural machinery and handling clippers and tractors.

He was also involved with the Mysore Dasara Exhibition from its very early days. His life was thought to have been 'one long service to art'.

On 8th February 1956, after what was a very long, healthy and successful career, Krumbiegel was laid to rest at the Christian cemetery, close to his dear Lalbagh and on his tomb were inscribed befitting words.

"The bravely dumb that did their deed,
And scorned to blot it with a name,
Men of the plain heroic breed
That loved Heaven's silence more than fame".



Renovated grave of Krumbiegel (Renovated by MHS
Christian Cemetery in Langford Town, Bengaluru



Mr. and Mrs. Krumbiegel with his assistant
Mr. Krishnamurthy Naidu - Lalbagh, 1949

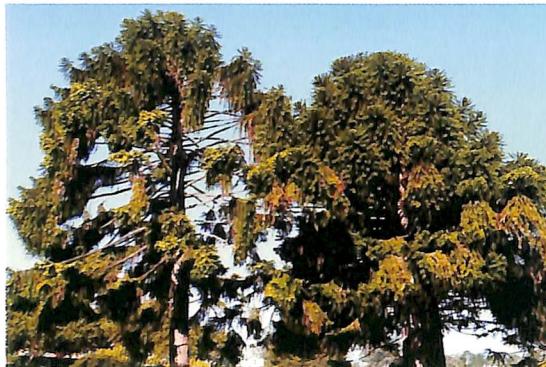
Plants Introduced by Krumbiegel



Ilex aquifolium
from Kew, England



Castanospermum australe
from Australia



Araucaria bidwillii
from Tasmania



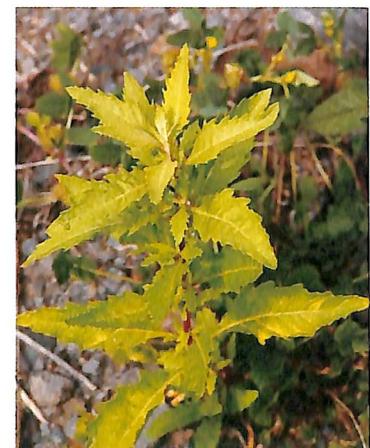
Canarium indicum
from Philippines



Hops
from Kew, England



Cedrela odorata
from Singapore



Chenopodium ambrosioides
from Budapest, Bulgaria



Amherstia Nobilis from Singapore

Artistic, ornamental and landscape works of Krumbiegel

G. H. Krumbiegel, left behind many monumental works, not only in the princely state of Mysore, but also in other parts of the country. He had an adventurous career. During his official career spanning 24 years from 1908 to 1932 as Superintendent of Government Gardens in the beginning, and later as Director of Horticulture, he executed innovative works in Lalbagh and other gardens. These works have led to visual changes in structures and landscape of the gardens he supervised. He brought professionalism in the avocations of horticulture, landscaping and town planning.

Mr. Krumbiegel hailed from Germany, trained in Kew Gardens, experimented on gardens in Baroda and executed his thoughts in the State of Mysore. His multifaceted personality was shaped by the experience gained during positions he held such as Economic Botanist, Landscape Consultant, Town Planner, Director of Horticulture and of course Director of Horticulture. During these postings and years, he got to know and associated with many personalities. Most important iconic personali-

ties were Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, Sri M. Visweshwaraya, Sri Mirza Ismail and Jemsetgi Tata.

Among many of his works of national importance, the Brindavan gardens of Mysore stands out as a garden of Moghul concept of the Charbagh. He was a polygot having multifaceted personality.

This booklet showcases some of the ornamental and aesthetic works which he executed as an artist, architect, landscapist and town planner.

Some of his works he accomplished in Lalbagh, Bangalore City, Mysore City, Ooty and state as a whole and also about some persons who had close association with him are narrated in the following pages.

Thomas Royer

Thomas Royer served under G. H. Krumbiegel for quite a long period. He retired as Horticulture Inspector in the year 1950. After retirement, he was reappointed as Horticulture Technical Assistant in the Mysore Horticultural Society. He was virtually managing the office of MHS. He died in the year - 1977.



Conservatory in Lalbagh designed by Krumbiegel (1920) - Now used as Directorate Building by the Dept. of Horticulture



Pergolas in Lalbagh designed by Krumbiegel

MTR Cruz – Son of Mr. Royer

He was the son of Mr. Royer, Landscape Officer and Sr. Asst. Director of Horticulture. He retired in the year 1988.

Mr. Cruz started his career in the year 1950 in Lalbagh as a draughtsman. Since he had Diploma in Engineering to his credit, he was posted as landscape officer and later promoted as Asst. Director of Landscape. At the time of retirement, he had been promoted as Senior Assistant Director Horticulture.

In 1956, after the death of Krumbiegel, his wife Mrs. Clara Krumbiegel had to leave for England as she was asked by the Government to vacate the rent free quarters "The Granite Castle". At this juncture, she called Dr. M. H. Marigowda, then Superintendent of Govt. Gardens to visit her house and collect all the plans, books and sketches pertaining to Mr. Krumbiegel.

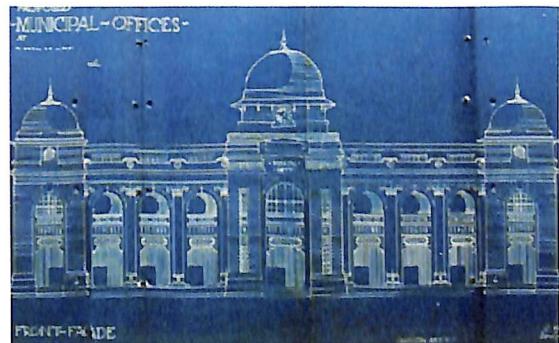
Dr. Marigowda deputed Mr. Cruz to go over to the Granite Castel and collect the said documents for the Lalbagh library. Mr. Cruz and party collected the documents and the same have been kept in the Landscape unit of Lalbagh.

K. S. Gopal Swamy Iyengar

A noted horticulturist, K. S. Gopal Swamy Iyengar (KSG) was a contemporarian of Krumbiegel. He served as Secretary of MHS. He

wrote a book for amateur horticulturists. It is titled "Complete Gardening in India". It is a very popular book even now. The foreword for the book was written by Mr. Krumbiegel. Even the second edition carried the foreword of Mr. Krumbiegel. His son Kasturi Rangan is a renowned Rose breeder.

The Bangalore City Corporation



Building

Mr. Krumbiegel, as urban planner and consulting architect, designed many civil buildings in Bangalore city as well as in other cities and towns of the State. The Corporation Building of Bangalore is a major building designed by him. The building is now the headquarters of BBMP. It has been in use as a functional structure for more than sixty years. It testifies the architectural genius of Krumbiegel.

Contribution to Horticulture

Krumbiegel served as the Superintendent of Govt. gardens, which included Lalbagh, Cubbon Park, Palace Gardens and Sunkal Farm in Bangalore and Cuzzon Park, Lalith Mahal Garden and University Gardens in Mysore City from 1908 to 1928. Later, he was promoted as Director of Horticulture in the princely State of Mysore, in which post he served till 1932, the year of his retirement.

After retirement, he was appointed as Advisor to Maharaja of Mysore for landscaping and town planning.

In the year 1965, the birth centenary of Krumbiegel was celebrated by the Dept. of Horticulture and Mysore Horticulture Society. A special issue of Lalbagh Journal was brought out to commemorate Krumbiegel's birth centenary year.

Among many structures, buildings, gates, circles, arches, gazebos, arbours, pergolas and gardens designed by Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel, the present Directorate building stands out as a singular, majestic and as a classical structure in Lalbagh. He had conceived the plan of starting a Horticultural college in Lalbagh in the 1920s. He designed the structure to locate the college. The Government of Mysore did not approve the college, but clearance was given for construction of the building. He made some changes and modified the plan. Instead of college, he built an indoor plants conservatory. It



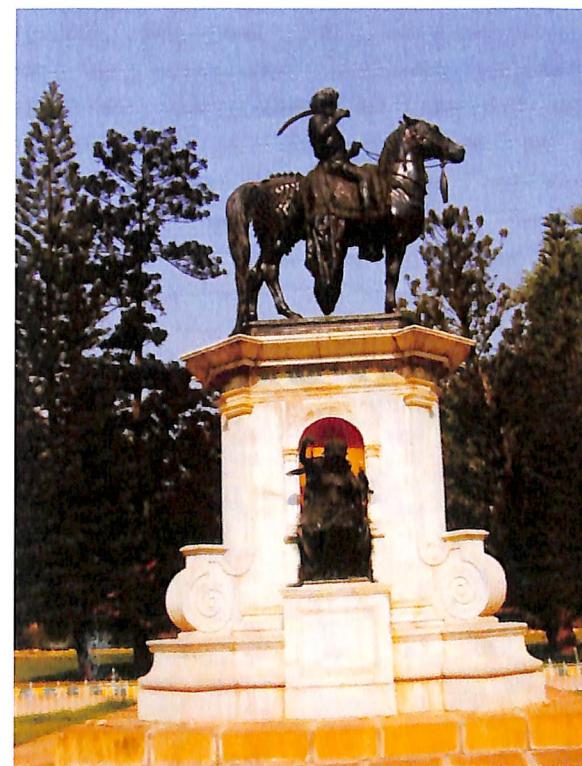
is a beautiful building and a magnanimous structure with artistic features on effective architectural styles. The central is quite spacious and it has at the front and back, wide windows and doors. The hall is covered at top with a high pyramid shaped roof. The roof is surmounted by a dome, which allows luxuriant sun light. There are two spacious halls and two rooms, one in each side.

The building is in the same shape since its construction in 1920, except for the roof the central hall, which was earlier covered with glass. In the year 1927, the glass roof was removed and reroofed with zinc sheet below and ochre coloured tiles above. This was done to provide office accommodation for the consulting architect, an additional task given to Krumbiegel. The building now accommodates the offices of the Directorate of Horticultural departments.

Krumbiegel designed an oval shaped garden near Lalbagh Main Gate, which is now popularly

known as Raja Round. A circle at the centre of this garden was beautified by erecting a majestic equestrian statue of His Highness Late Chamaraja Wodeyar. Actually, this statue was transferred from the Cuzzonpark in Mysore. This oval shaped garden is now a cynosure of all the visitors to Lalbagh. Because, the garden is encircled by a pathway, all along its borders, he planted various exotic flowering trees which bloom in such a way that one or the other tree is in bloom throughout the year. At the centre of each quadrangle, tall growing Araucaria trees were planted.

The oval shaped garden lies at a prime place of Lalbagh. As one enters Lalbagh, he is led straight to this garden from the main gate, which is called Cameron's gate. The oval garden can be located in Google Earth. This garden has entry paths from all four directions.



Equestrian statue of Chamaraja Wodeyar, relocated to Lalbagh from Mysore by Krumbiegel



Ornamental Lampposts

The Glasshouse is the cynosure of Lalbagh. There is a beautiful promenade at its frontage. There are fountains, bandstand and earthen vase in this promenade. Krumbiegel further beautified the frontage promenade by erecting ornamental and artistic lampposts at four points of terraces (two at each point) and thus gave formal shape and design to the entire promenade of almost a furlong length.

The lampposts have aesthetically enhanced the environs of the Glasshouse. They are sturdy, lengthy and cylindrical, and have a flower shaped crown. Designed by Krumbiegel, the lampposts were cast in wrought iron by the Massey company in Madras (Now Chennai).

Tagore Tum of Lalbagh

The Bangalore city had the rare privilege of hosting a civic reception to Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in the year 1919. Lalbagh was chosen as the venue for reception. Tagore, during the reception, heartily praised the beauty of Lalbagh.

Krumbiegel thought to sanctify the location where Tagore sat in Lalbagh. He did not design a stupendous building or a circle, or majestic

monument but a simple, but artistic and ornamental tum. Just at the main entrance of the Lalbagh, we can see the tall Java fig trees planted symmetrically, four at each side of the entry point to the oval garden. Just below the trees, granite benches beautifully wrought with back rest are fixed to the ground. The comfortable seats under the shade of Java Fig

take the visitors to an ethereal world. That is the effect, ambience, serenity and tranquillity one enjoys here. The vision and forethought of Krumbeigel could be experienced here. Dr. M. H. Marigowda's burst is consecrated under these Java fig trees.

Lalbagh Museum

It is designed and built by Krumbeigel. It is an elegant building with curved features, situated at North East corner of Lalbagh. It is kind of an island building as the main road encircles the building. It is a cottage like structure consisting of a main hall with corresponding parallel antechambers at each side.

The whole building is symmetrical in form and shape with an elevated roof of tiles. The building is well lit and ventilated. This building was built with the main purpose of accommodating a museum. The museum was located in this building for some time. Later, perhaps in the 1950s, the museum was shifted from here paving way for accommodating part of the directorate offices.

Horticultural School - Krumbeigel Hall

A rustic but an ornamental building dating back

to 19th century stands even today as a mute witness to the colonial glory of Lalbagh. It is called the Lecture Hall – So named, because lectures on Horticultural and landscaping were given to students from different colleges, specially, the Agricultural College of Bangalore, here till the 1960s.

The building has a beautiful façade with elegant ornamental pillars and pediment at top where Mysore state's emblem is beautifully crafted in mortar. It was named after Krumbeigel in the 1990s. It is now popularly called "Krumbeigel Hall".

Jayamarthand Mahadwara - Main Entry Arch of Mysore Palace

The Mysore Palace is one of the most elegantly decorated and commodious palaces in India. It was designed by Henry Irwin, architect of Rashtrapati Niwas, also known as Viceregal Lodge, Shimla. The palace's surroundings were cleared of ugly structures on the suggestion of Krumbeigel. A beautiful high size compound wall with four gates, one in each direction, was designed by Krumbeigel. The gates are very solid, sturdy, yet elegant and ornamental.





Blurred negative 3rd Sep. 1940 Hans Döring

Bangalore Palace Garden

The palace of Bangalore has a cast of symmetrical garden, originally designed by John Cameron. When the palace was extended and modified, Mr. Krumbeigel gave it a new look by integrating fountains, pedestals, arches and terraces. Fruit garden, fernery, indoor garden, avenues and boulevards were all symbiotically



merged by Krumbiegel into a comprehensive palace orchard garden.

Queen's Corner of Cubbon Park

Towards the north of Cubbon Park, there is a beautiful, formal and symmetrical garden, which is popularly called Queen's garden. At both ends, towards east and west, there are statues of Queen Victoria and King Edward, respectively. They were installed in the first decade of the 20th century. In between these statues, a garden was laid by Krumbeigel. He embellished the garden with a formation at the centre, an avenue of mast (*Polyalthia longifolia*) trees at either side. Krumbeigel further beautified the garden by building a plant house, which accommodated more than a 1,000 potted plants. The plant house was very well conceived.





The concentric stone benches served as steps and provided space for the plants. This garden is called Queen's Garden as a mark of respect to the then Queen of England and India.

Queen Victoria's Son's statue, located at the other end, was unveiled in 1911. The Queen's statue was installed in 1902. Colorful flowering trees such as Cassia javanica and Cassia renigera, were planted behind the King's statue. These statues enhanced the beauty and serenity

of the park during blooming period, i.e., spring in March and April of every year.

Brindavan Gardens at KRS Dam Site

As per the wish of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar it was Sir M. Visweswaraya, Dewan of Mysore State from 1912 to 1918, who initiated the project. A dam across the river Cauvery was built in the 1920s. Later, the work of beautification of dam site by utilizing the dammed water was taken up by Sir Mirz Ismail, Dewan from 1925 to 1940.

The responsibility of drawing up plans for a beautiful garden was given to G. H. Krumbeigel, then Superintendent of Govt. gardens. He prepared the landscape plan on the lines of



"Charbagh", a Moghul style garden – A quadrangle garden with fountains, sports, sprinklers, porteries (gatehouse), chutes, siphons. Because of the gradient of the ground and ample water from the dam, the garden was beautifully conceived and executed. Popularly called as Brindavana Gardens, it is considered as one of the most beautiful gardens in Asia. Kudos to Mr. Krumbiegel!

Rajghat – Tomb of Mahatma Gandhi

The vast, landscaped garden laid around the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi is now a popular and much thronged tourist place. Krumbiegel designed the Raj Gaht garden during the fag end of his life. He was already nearing 90 when he took up the project. He did the job meticulously by laying lawns on the undulated ground and circumvallation around the tomb.

Silver Jubilee Circles – K. R. Circle

The year 1927 was the year of celebration for the citizens of the Mysore State. The year marked their beloved king His Highness Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar completing 25 years of successful, meritorious and benevolent rule. To celebrate the event, many constructive works were executed in the state. The chief one being construction of ornamental circles at important intersections in towns and villages of the state. Many of these circles were designed by Krumbiegel. He designed eight pillars, four tall and four small, with artistic features and got them painted in attractive colours. The famous K. R. Circle, or Krishna Rajendra Circle, in Bangalore, was among the circles designed by Krumbiegel.



Ornamental Gajebo at Silver Jubilee Park, Kolar

Besides being a horticulturist, Krumbiegel was also a practicing landscaping architect and town planner. He designed ornamental gates, bridges, pedestals, arches, arbors and gazebos. His

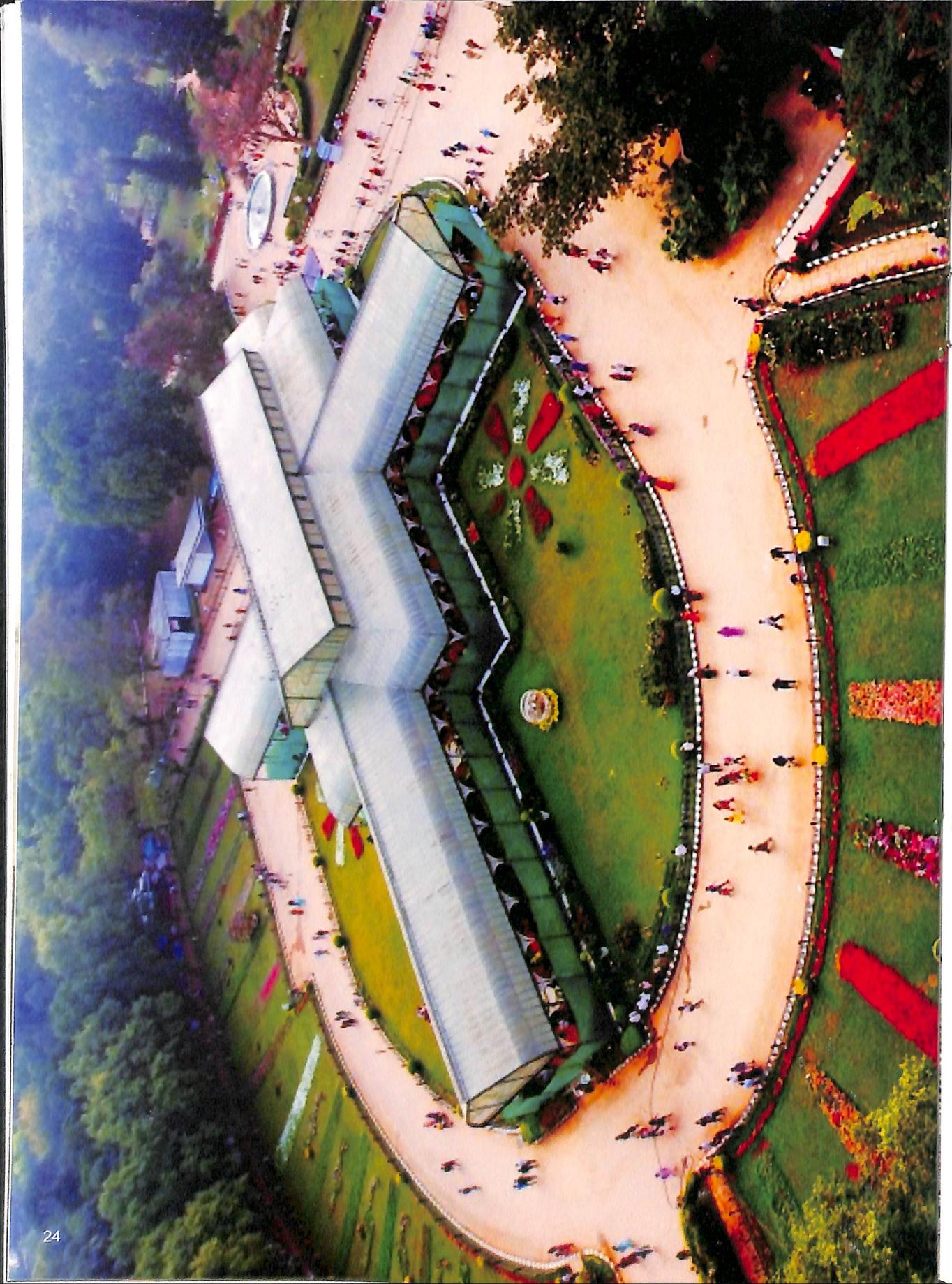
services were sought by the town municipal officers to develop parks, village squares, shelters and mausoleums. The Gazebo (rather a mausoleum) in the Silver Jubilee park of Kolar was designed by him.

Features of the Bangalore Palace Garden designed by Krumbiegel



Decorative elements in Kamati Bagh, Baroda, designed by Krumbiegel





The 2016 Republic Day National Flower Festival

Celebrated as a floral tribute to G. H. Krumbiegel

On the 150th anniversary celebrations of G. H. Krumbiegel, the Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka, Mysore Horticulture Society and the people of Karnataka paid rich tributes to him by dedicating to him the 2016 Republic Flower Show 2016. The flower show was held in an exclusive manner on a national scale from 16th to 26th January 2016.

The event featured a host of floral spectacles. Floral professionals, scientists and garden lovers from all over India and abroad visited the show. Among other attractions, the event featured miniature replicas of contributions made by Krumbiegel.

Replica of Krumbiegel's Childhood Home

The replica was created using thousands of rare and beautiful pot grown flowers. It was in the size of 30 ft. x 25 ft. width and 25 ft height. Decked with over 2,60,000 flowers consisting of Petunia, Dianthus, Begonia, Geranium,

Calanchu, Chrysanthamum, etc., the creation was the centre of attraction.

Statue of Krumbiegel

A statue of Krumbiegel was made and placed close to the entrance of Lalbagh Glasshouse. The surroundings of the statue were decked with rare flowers in a captivating way. Lily, Anthurium, Orchids, Calla Lily, and rare leaf plants were used.

Floral Extravaganza at Glasshouse

Floral designs and attractive flowers of different varieties, grown in pots and arranged over 120 x 410 sq. ft. area at the centre of the Glasshouse captivated the visitors during the show.

Flower Trees

Four flower trees, each measuring 17 ft. height, were designed. More than 300 Poinsettia flowers in different colours were used for designing them.



Floral Heart

Three floral hearts, each measuring a height of 13 ft., 14 ft. and 15 ft. were on display. More than 50,000 pot grown Petunia flowers were used for their creation.

In addition, attractive topiaries, new flowers, a photo exhibition on Krumbiegel, diverse flower pots, roof garden concepts, hanging flowers and huge floral carpets in 20 different locations of Lalbagh, were among the attractions.







My humble tributes to G. H. Krumbiegel

Dr. M. Jagadeesh, M.Sc. Horti, PhD

Joint Director of Horticulture
(Parks, Gardens and Floriculture)

The 2016 Republic Day National Flower Festival will be forever etched in my memory. I am quite privileged to be part of this event, which is being celebrated as a tribute to the extraordinary genius of G. H. Krumbiegel, renowned horticulturist and landscape architect.

Lalbagh has been nurtured and developed by several distinct personalities over the last 250 years. Hyder Ali commissioned the creation of Lalbagh in the year 1760 as his personal garden in an area of 40 acres. Thereupon, it was further developed by his son Tipu Sultan and his keen interest in importing plants heralded the beginning of importing exotic plant species. Later, Lalbagh received the patronage of British rulers. John Cameron, Superintendent of Lalbagh, enriched the plant wealth of Lalbagh by introducing innumerable native and exotic plant species. The Wodeyars of Mysore had a special place for Lalbagh in the heart and Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar made an immeasurable contribution to the development of Lalbagh. He brought G. H. Krumbiegel to the State of Mysore and he, with his magical touch, beautified several places in the State. The publication of this small information booklet is my humble way of paying tribute to G. H. Krumbiegel.

On this occasion, I would also like to pay tribute to H. C. Javaraya and Dr. M. H. Marigowda, two towering personalities, for their remarkable contribution to the development of Lalbagh and Horticulture in the state, and all the people who have held the position of the Director of Horticulture and other senior positions for their contribution to Horticulture, guidance and advice. I also thank all my colleagues and other staff for their support and cooperation.

I would like to thank Sri Rajeev Chawla, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Dept. of Horticulture and Sericulture, Sri. S.B. Bommanahalli, I.A.S., Director of Horticulture and Chairman of Mysore Horticultural Society, Sri Srikantaiah, Vice Chairman of Mysore Horticultural Society, Sri Kuppuswamy, Treasurer, MHS, Sri M. R. Chandrashekhar, Ex-officio Secretary, council members of MHS, Dr. A. N. Yellappa Reddy, noted environmentalist, and Dr. Krishna Chavan, landscape architect, for their unflinching support. I also extend my thanks to the content contributors S. Narayana Swamy and Savithri Preetha Nair.